

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04950 180803Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 180745Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5321

S E C R E T JIDDA 4950

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, US, SA
SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: AMMAN 3747

1. THINGS SEEM TO BE GETTING FRENETIC AGAIN IN AMMAN,
JUDGING FROM REFTTEL WHICH QUITE OBVIOUSLY REPRESENTS HUSSAIN'S
IDEA OF HOW TO TIE THE SAUDIS DOWN IN THE AIR DEFENSE DEAL.
2. DEPENDING ON WHAT DEPARTMENT AND DOD COME UP WITH IN
TERMS OF OVERALL COSTS AND PAYMENT CONDITIONS, WE STAND A
PRETTY GOOD CHANCE OF WORKING IT OUT SATISFACTORILLY THIS TIME.
3. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HUSSEIN SHOULD BE URGED TO RESTRAIN
HIMSELF AND TO MAKE NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY KIND WITHOUT
SAUDI KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT IN ADVANCE. HUSSEIN'S REFERENCE
TO THE NEED TO TELL " HIS TROOPS" ABOUT THIS MATTER SURELY COULD
BE SATISFIED BY BRIEFING A FEW OF HIS OFFICERS AS TO THE STATUS
OF THE MATTER. EVEN THIS STEP SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN WITHOUT
SAUDI FOREKNOWLEDGE AND AGREEMENT.
4. HIS DESIRE TO WRITE THE SOVIETS RIGHT AWAY A "THANK YOU
VERY MUCH BUT I WON'T NEED YOUR HELP" LETTER IS VERY TOUCHING,
BUT SLIGHTLY RIDICULOUS CONSIDERING SOVIET MANNERS WHICH ARE
A DIRECT REFLECTION OF THEIR NATIONAL EMBLEM.

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5. PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO RESTRAIN OUR FRIENDS IN AMMAN.

6. REPEAT TO PICKERING IF YOU DESIRE.

PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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